

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of Ushio et al. (US, 6,271,047).

Claims 13-24, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are now rejoined. Since all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 C.F.R. 1.142 have been rejoined, the restriction requirement made in Paper No. 0903 is withdrawn.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants respectfully submit concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer under C.F.R. §1.321, and authorize the fee of \$110.00 for Terminal Disclaimer, as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.20(d), to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claim Rejections Under Double Patenting

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of Ushio et al. (US, 6,271,047).

While Applicants traverse the rejections, Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer to facilitate allowance of the present application, thereby obviating the double patenting rejections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

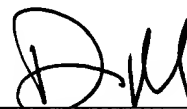
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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